10/27/71

Dear Mary,

This is sort of an amendment to last night's letter, brought on by the climax of that 22 1/2 hours of work. I had stayed up later than I would have, for I was really pooped by it, to catch the Cronkite interview with Dito, when the young friend who had said that if I'd let him prepare a popularization/condensation of PR phoned to say he has some second thoughts. He'd pay for the printing of the entire work in the underground form : he wants it to assess blame! Without it he t inks less, I gather not enough, of the book. He is scheduled to com here tomorrow, and he wanted to prepare me for it.

Well, you've read two parts. What can one responsibly add alone this line to t one two parts? Can anyone responsibly assess more blame in the anal part?(And I'll be defining this a bit more in a new short last chapter I'll add to it the essence of which I give you in confidence nave for Arch in pursuit of the purpose for which I write in the few minutes before I awaken All: I got Fisher to admit to me certain things, including his personal destruction of all their working papers and all their earlier drafts. We've got nothing but official and professional pyromaniacs working on Presidential autopsies!)

Because he made this proposal, I have really exhausted myself over the past two months to prepare the work for printing, and there is a potential urgency for it now for which I don't now take the time but it goes to what I was telling you about this not being a good time for Ox to see and then hold forth on the pix and X-rays, so I needed little more than the encouragement to work this way. Up be sure I had the first part done for his scheduled coming, in case he wanted to check any of it for his condensation. I put in that kind of a day yesterday. To be climaxed that way?

Anyway, as I have not commercialized my writing for literary acceptability, I'm not about to fall to the Garrison-Bud bug of pretending to solve what I now can't and I think nobody else now can solve, this crime, not by the kind of proposed indirection most of all. Nor am I about to make a flase historical record of "blame" to get the rest of the work out, in whatever limited form.

So you will again understand the futility involved here, to the degree I can prior to his arrival, the new last part brings to light what the Commission never had, part of which you have seen, and proves the destruction of other evidence, limiting "fault" to the degree it can be. This, of course, is for you and Arch only, and I know you'll keep your word. This last part proves the destruction of 100s of the remaining essential evidence of the crime as it relates to the autopsy and what is essential to it. All the ballistics evidence has been destroyed or contaminated, all the evidence of the clothing has been destroyed, and I've got the proof, in the form of pictures in some cases, tracing of pictures I forced them to take for me by going to court and "losing" that suit (and I was my own lawyer). And after all of this and much more that you will eventually see, this rich and basically very decent young man wants more, "blame" assessed more than I have? He actually thinks that if he interviews McClay and perhaps a few staff members, he'll get them to place the blame. The most obvious answer, were this a realistic approach, is that each will lie to blame the others. But in any event, when he gave me an earlier formulation, wanting to show the book in advance of publication, to some, like Mac, I said no but when publication was assured I'd be happy to let each one he wanted-and I added a few names to his list- have a copy and print whatever comment any had to make in an appendix.

Christ, Mary, at the risk of sounding more egotistical than I am about my work, I don't think that if Arch had opened his bank accounts and hired the best investigators and scholars he could get he could have gotten what I have with the expenditure of a vast fortune. You can't begin to imagine the amount and intensity of work involved in this book. I started working on it in the Spring of 1966, that is, working on collecting info for it after I finished with WW, the first major angle I then started. In those long years I did an enormous amount of work. To give you one example, the papers I filed at one time in court in this suit (which Bud had first agreed to handle and then refused to, so I did it all alone) are longer than most books. At one fell swoop I filed a single set of book-length papers, and I mean

a length about twice that of Popkin's or Epstein's books. I had 30 days in which to prepare and file these papers, and to that end I had to get someone to help Lil with the retyping. The reason for the length is simply this: to prevent the government's converting a court proceeding into another Warren Report-and to make a record for our side, which it sure as hell does. Why else do you think the government went into court with the copout that they'd take pictures for me but not give me copies? I forced them to cook something up to get them off their own petard. And it worked, believe me, as you'll see when you see the new last part. As I tell you, none of the original evidence any longer exists and in each case I have the proof and can print it (but I doubt I'll print many, if any, pix with blood even given the chance). And I've solved the problem of the front neck wound beyond any question, as I have also done the same more than you know with the two others admitted. In fact, I've come up with but do nothing about (because as of today I can't responsibly) a prima facie case of another unreported wound.

Anyway, I've awakened Lil, we'll soon breakfast, and I think I'd better do what the doctor has wanted me to do but I've not for most mornings to get this part of the work done, take a brisk walk after breakfast. I'll put this in the mailbox as I go out so the mailman can pick it up when he comes and thus, unless there is some kind of emergency, save myself a special trip into town (our finances have degenerated to the point where I consider if I really must make the expenditure of 10 miles of gas). So I can't continue much longer.

After his call last night and as I lay in bed before falling asleep, I began to wonder about alternatives. One that occurred to me is to propose to Arch that if he really wants to spend money in a way that can do some good, if not for today for the future, one way would be to pay for the printing of this work and if that satisfies him for those others I will do and have in many cases started, as many or as few as he'd like. I think if he wants to leave a memorial to himself, this is one he might not find unworthy. (And, although in my mind it should not be a consideration, you have only seen part of the attention this work gives to those who consider themselves "liberals", like Ramsey Clark, that NLR where Roche, NMJ, Wash Post, etc. Sic, it is not inconsistent with Arch's politics. My point is not that he should consider only what is in accord with his political beliefs, for that is not true scholarship or intellectual honesty, but that, espite all the propaganda about me, this book actually is in accord with his beliefs about those people, and his and mine coincide. You realize this is not something new on my part because you know when I wrote the parts you have.)

The cost would largely depend on the size of the appendix, and I'd like to include in it all the suppressed docs that are relevant, including 1003 d. What I've gotten that is essential the Commission never had. Again, you've seen some. I would want a few of the pictures, such as the ones that do not show blood but do show the alteration of the evidence, a coup,e showing how they faked the front-neck wound evidence, and I've had those for some time. With the short additions to be made, the text runs close to 400 pages. I've cut a bit from the first, which will about equal the introduction to the overall work, partly written, and I've got the conclusions mostly written, the finishing awaiting the rereading of the last part. The size, then, would depend on the appendix, and I think that a minimum of 100 pages should be considered. As you realize, this one be extended to 1000, but I think that unrealistic. And one other thought for a lawsuit: this will go far to relieving the guilt assessed to Dallas, for it is a book about Washington and what happened there. And despite my young rich friend, about who did it or who could have.

Not too long ago, Gary told me he can't understand how I can bear the load I do without crucidin, and because he is a psychologist, this made me feel good, for I feel these burdens. But I tell you, those harder to bear are not the crookedness that keeps us broke or that of those who have done what we are looking into, but the hurst of those who are supposed to be friends. Were I free and independent, I'd not begin to think of all and me dying the work we have done in the time we have done it for the cost of printing the book. And then to have it all end in inevitable disappointment. God save us from our well-intentioned "friends"!

Best to you all.

Sincerely,